

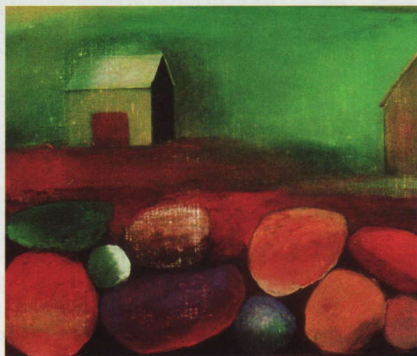
The easel, the loom, the potters' wheel. The camera, the kiln, the chisel. The Vineyard is rich in artisans with eyes and hands of fine artists. Whether for the collector, homeowner or discriminating designer or architect, Made-on-Island is a gallery for new possibilities.

Profiles by Layne Lakefish

Evocative Texture

The Language of Wendy Weldon

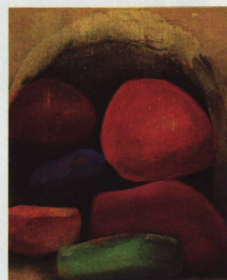
It's late at night, a time when most Islanders are turning off their lights. Not acrylic painter Wendy Weldon. In her up-Island artist's studio, Weldon is turning her lights on.



Having just returned from a friend's party, too energized to sleep, she readies the tools of her craft — canvas, brushes, paints — and sets brush to canvas. But she doesn't start to paint.

She starts to write.

Big, bold words, in casual cursive. Black ink. Words like "Great Time" and "Really Happy." Simple words, really. But simple can be



no sign that those words ever graced its tightly woven fibers.

Instead, the finished piece will ooze color, evocative, delicious color — just as all of her work does. "I've had a lifelong love affair with color," says Weldon, who has been painting professionally for 35 years. "That's what has carried through all the different phases of my work: responding to

color, wanting to put more color on the canvas."

Fresh out of art school, she stuck primarily to abstracts. Since then, however, her rich paintings have evolved to include many

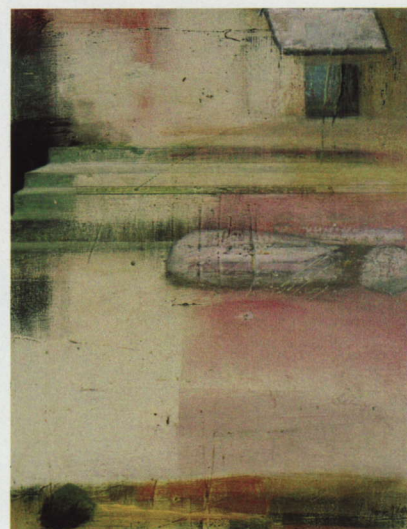
different subjects, including owls, barns, shrine artifacts, light bulbs, beds, and, more recently, rock walls.

"I worship rock walls," she confides.

She focuses on both color and texture in order to capture the essence of the rock walls that snake their way across the Island. "I really take my time building up the surface of the canvas," she explains. "Sanding is one way of creating a built-up surface. It gives those rocks their textures."

Currently, Weldon is focusing on yet another aspect of her craft. "It's important for me, as an artist, to shake up my comfort zone in order to be able to grow," she explains. "I've always been searching for different shapes, abstract or real, and

deceiving, especially when the words flow from the hand of an artist whose finished canvas will show absolutely

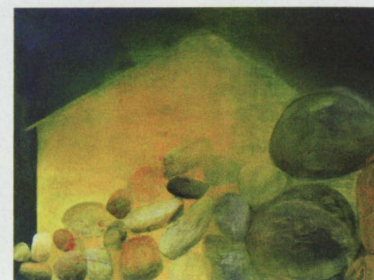


now I'm working with scale and perspective."



The curious can enjoy Weldon's latest creations in her summer show at the Shaw Cramer Gallery, Main Street, Vineyard Haven. The show will run from July 8 through July 21, with an opening reception on July 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Weldon will also be giving an Artist's talk at the Shaw Cramer Gallery on Friday, July 15, at 6:30 p.m., during which she will



discuss her artistic process by sharing snapshots taken during each successive phase of the creation of one of her most recent paintings. **vs**

Wendy focuses on both color and texture to capture the essence of the natural world. Rock walls, old barns and hidden pastures become abstract subjects and the source of light-infused, vivid color.

